

### *Formosa Mea*

Tone Wik, s; Christian Kjos, hpsi, org; Karolina Radziej, v; Johan Nicolai Mohn, rec  
LAWO 1109—60 minutes

This is collection of 17th Century Italian sacred music sung by Norwegian soprano Tone Wik, and it is the sacred counterpart to her earlier recording of Italian secular music from the 17th Century (May/June 2004: 218). Some of the selections are among the best known examples of this repertoire, including Monteverdi's 'Exulta filia Sion' and Alessandro Grandi's 'O quam tu pulchra es'. Others are new to me, including two Italian songs by Francesca Caccini and others by Frescobaldi, Stefano Bernardi, Bonifatio Gratiani, Biagio Marini, and Tarquinio Merulo.

For contrast, in addition to providing instrumental parts for some of the vocal works, the instrumentalists play pieces by Frescobaldi, Alessandro Piccinini, and Girolamo Kapsberger. Wik's voice is both very expressive and able to manage the occasional bursts of virtuosity in these pieces, and she is ably supported by the sensitive accompaniments.

BREWER

### *American Record Guide*